SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — January 3, 1972

No 129

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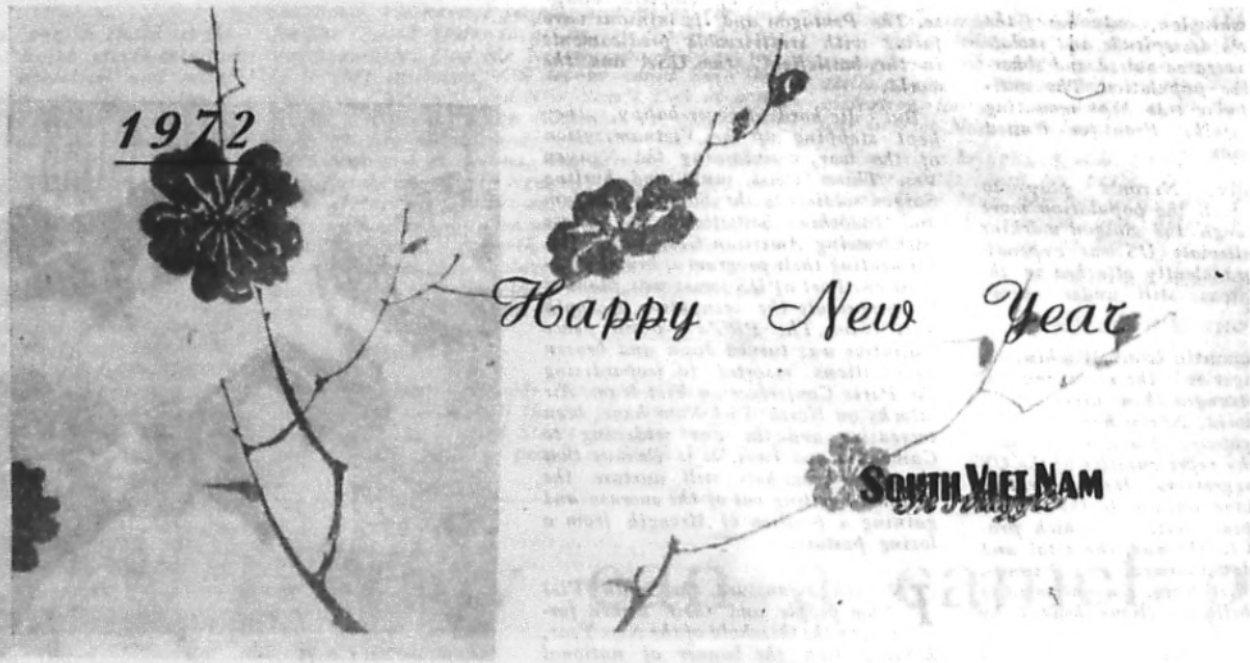

editorial

1972 New Year, New Successes for us

WE are entering a New Year. One year more will add more successes for the three Indochinese peoples and their armed forces. For the US imperialists and their flunkeys, one new year will augur more difficulties and reverses.

A glimpse back at 1971 shows that the South Viet Nam people and their armed forces were on the posture of attacks, heading forward, while the adversary remained on the defensive and was going downhill. The balance of forces pitted in our favour, and advantages were on our side.

Militarily, *1971 was a year when Nixon made tremendous efforts to Vietnamize the war. 1971 also witnessed the pitiable doom of all his big tests. US defence lines in Eastern Nam Bo, the Central High Plateaux, Northern Quang Tri were breached. After stunning blows on Highway 9-Southern Laos, the Central High Plateaux, Tay Ninh and Northeastern Cambodia, Saigon main forces had no morale and combativeness at all. The weary withdrawing GIs were disappointed by a long-drawn losing war in Indochina.*

As for rural pacification, that strategic method to Vietnamize the war, it experienced a notable drawback under

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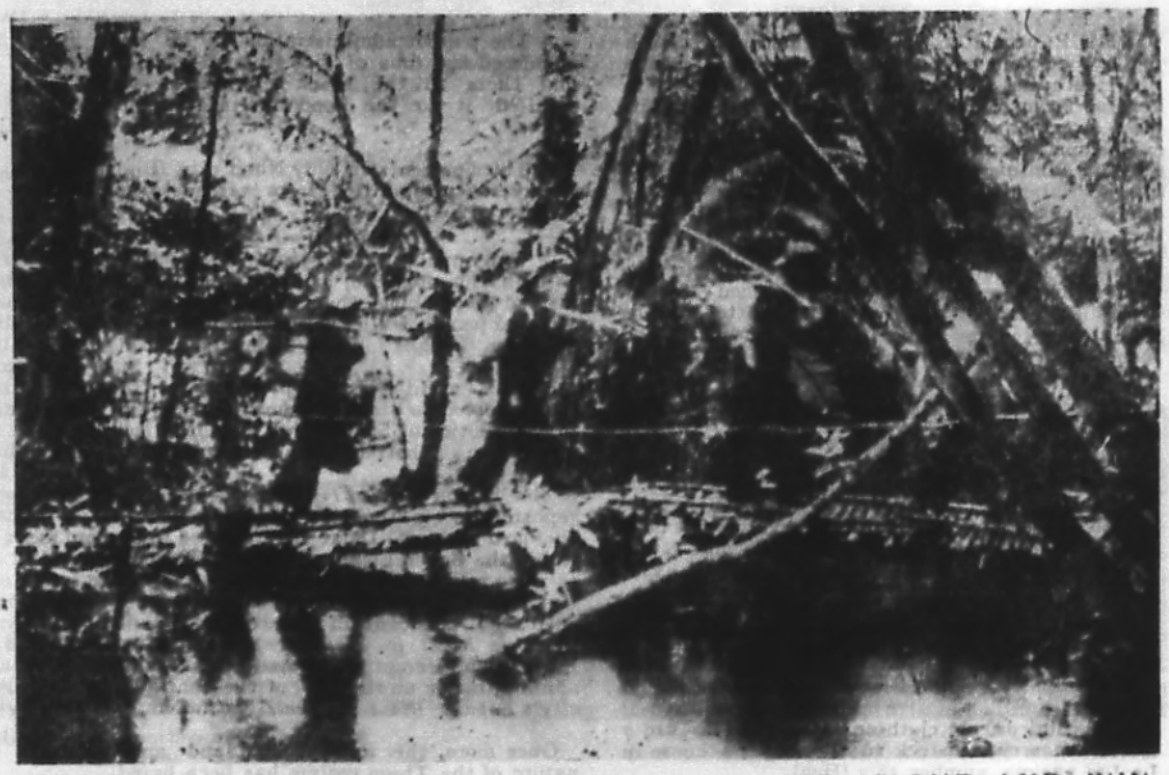

GO, FIGHT AND WIN

New Year, New Successes for us

(Continued from page 1)

unremitting assaults combined with popular uprisings. Long-days operations in the U Minh jungle, Tri-Thien, and Southern Trung Bo failed lamentably. A series of strategic hamlets, concentration areas were dismantled and many military subsectors shattered. Villagers in hamlets bordering the cities rose up to become the masters of their land.

Politically, *US efforts to turn the weakling Saigon administration into a tool for the prosecution of the war were labour lost. After a comic one-man race, the maintenance of Nguyen Van Thieu by Washington, only bared the Saigon regime's decrepitude and isolation amidst increased hatred and abhorrence from the population. The anti-US-Thieu popular tide kept mounting and the townsfolks' Front for United Actions widening.*

Economically, *Nixon's ploy to exploit and loot the population more ruthlessly through the Saigon machine in order to alleviate US war expenditure, has been violently attacked in the cities and areas still under enemy control.*

In the diplomatic front, *Washington could no longer rule the roost and has been more estranged than never before. Before the world, Nixon has appeared in the true colours of a warlike, obstinate and tricky representative of the US imperialist aggressors. He deliberately eludes a serious answer to the PRG's seven-point peace initiative which proposes an end to the war, the total and unconditional withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam, renouncement to the Saigon bellicose clique headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, and free choice for the South Viet Nam people to settle their internal affairs, without foreign interference. A universal drive is pressing hard on the White House for an earnest response to the PRG's 7-point peace proposal.*

In the USA, the anti-war movement is gaining momentum, the heights of which being the 1971 Spring and Fall Offensives. Last year was also marked by US trade-unions and servicemen's stiff resistance to the war.

The South Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao peoples and their armed forces' gains together with the ebullient struggle of the peoples in the USA and the world, have dealt telling blows at the US plan of Vietnamizing the war, driving it to the brink of complete collapse. The Pentagon and its minions were facing with irretrievable predicaments in the battlefield, the USA and the world.

But die-hard trigger-happy, they kept stepping up the Vietnamization of the war, maintaining the Nguyen Van Thieu fascist junta and hurling Saigon soldiers to the South Viet Nam and Indochina battlefields to replace withdrawing American GIs, while implementing their program of brutal pacification. Part of US forces was planned to perpetuate the occupation of South Viet Nam. The PRG's 7-point peace initiative was turned down and brazen provocations resorted to jeopardizing the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. Air attacks on North Viet Nam have been increasing and the war widening to Cambodia and Laos. It is obvious that the top brass-hats still nurture the dream of getting out of the morass and gaining a position of strength from a losing posture.

IN such a juncture, the South Viet Nam people and their armed forces, on the threshold of the New Year, holding high the banner of national union and combativeness, are resolved to fight and to win still bigger successes on the military, political and diplomatic fronts, heading for complete victory. In the immediate future, we will bend all our efforts on developing the gains scored, overcoming all difficulties to crush the US Vietnamization strategy and criminal pacification program.

Said Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho in his address at the rally marking the 11th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation: **The stage before us will be one of fiercest fighting when our people and army will have to go through many hardships and sacrifices. But surely it will be a stage of very big and all-sided victories.**

Entering the New Year, our forces go on growing. The will of our people is unshakable. Our posture keeps strengthening. We are strong both in forces and posture. We are strong with our righteous line, the bloc of national union, the combat potentialities of our people and army, the solidarity of the three Indochinese peoples, the support and assistance from the world peoples, including the progressives in the United States. We are fully able and have conditions to win new successes in the New Year.

SOUTH VIET NAM *in struggle*

Saigon students and buddhists on anti-US-Thieu hunger-strike

Thieu's men pilfer relief for flood victims

WHILE people of various segments in South Viet Nam have been seeking every means to assist the victims of the recent floods in Central Trung Bo, by setting up "relief committees, organizing money collections, handicraft exhibitions, theatrical performances...," the Saigon quisling administration has been taking advantage of the calamity to embezzle relief goods and other donations.

According to Saigon paper *Chinh Luan* (Political Opinion) on November 28, people in the flood-stricken regions strongly denounced Nguyen Huu Vien, head of the supply committee of the "military sector social affairs' service," and members of that service, for stealing 18,500 tins of fish out of the 200,000 donated by inhabitants of Saigon and other provinces. The same paper further revealed that Vien's men in charge of the storages had diverted carloads of relief goods which they eventually sold for 500,000 to 2 million piastres (Saigon currency) each.

Such offences of Vien and his men have not been isolated cases, similar practices have become established in most of the provinces of South Viet Nam.

Following are other cases exposed by the Saigon press:

— The quisling authorities in Hue city pocketed nearly one million-piastre proceeds from disposal of a big lot of old clothing. They had to use 7 lorries to carry the stock to the buyer's house in Le Loi avenue, number 38/2 (Hue).

— The puppet administration in Da Nang city plundered 800 tons of rice from a warehouse and sold them to the black marketeers who later detailed it to the flood victims at cut-throat prices.

— Thieu's agents in Quy Nhon city (Binh Dinh) stole 1,200 tons of rice from warehouse number 6 of the city.

— The quisling authorities in Nha Trang city (Khanh Hoa province) hoarded 1,800 tons of rice instead of making them available to the flood-affected people while the latter had to scramble and even to fight for only a few pounds of rice.

Thieu's agents in the provinces of Trung Bo also resorted to base manoeuvres to prevent people in other cities of South Viet Nam from coming to the rescue of their stricken fellow-countrymen.

The Saigon daily *Tin Sang* (Morning News) reported that in the last days of November 1971, the governor of Dalat city ordered his men to forbid the General Union of Schoolchildren in Dalat to raise relief fund. They also prosecuted the said Union's executive committee chairman and threatened the president of the city's *Movement for Women's Right to Live* for her relief activities. Earlier, an attempt engineered by the Dalat puppet administration on the life of the chairman of the city's *Popular Front for Peace* had failed.

Once more the anti-national and anti-popular nature of the Thieu regime has been bared.

US - SAIGON SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF XMAS TRUCE

ACCORDING to initial reports from *GPA*, up to 24:00 of December 25, 1971, that is 48 hours after the RSVN PRG's order on the suspension of military attacks came into force, the US and Thieu administration violated more than 320 times the Xmas truce with air strikes and ground sweeps in the provinces of Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Quang Duc, Binh Long, Kong Tum, Dar Lac, Plei Ku, Phuoc Long, Tay Ninh, Long An, Northern Gia Dinh, Rach Gia, Ca Mau. In Northern Gia Dinh, Thu Dau Mot, Tay Ninh and Ca Mau, most serious breaches were committed. In Tay Ninh and Gia Dinh, right on December 25 when Thieu issued his truce order, air and artillery attacks as well as terrorist raids continued unabated all round the clock.

In many places in Ben Tre, Can Tho, Rach Gia, Ca Mau, An Giang, our Catholic fellow-countrymen could not attend Christmas celebrations owing to pressganging.

The US-Saigon crimes during this Christmas have aroused high indignation among the various strata of the population and even among the US-Saigon and satellite troops. Strictly abiding by the PRG's truce order and resolute to ensure the people's right to attend Christmas celebrations, the PLAF in the above-mentioned provinces meted due punishment to the truce-breakers.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY LAWYER NGUYEN HUU THO

Dear friends,

On behalf of the South Viet Nam people and the National Front for Liberation, I would like to convey on New Year's Day my best wishes to the American people who have been struggling for peace, freedom and justice. May I extend my particular regards to Professor Angela Davis and other Americans still illegally detained for having opposed courageously the US government's reactionary policies.

On the threshold of 1972, one is elated at the ever greater successes of the world movements for peace, democracy, national liberation and social progress. We have confidence in the solidarity and militant efforts of the Indochinese peoples and progressive Americans. Peace and justice will triumph.

In 1971, the drive for peace, democracy and a decent life in the United States made another step forward. Larger numbers of Americans regardless of skin colors and political tendencies, including those involved in the administrative machine and armed forces, took united actions, and worked unremittingly to demand that the Nixon administration end the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, and repatriate all GIs immediately. Progressive mankind has been joining the American people in exposing President Nixon's perfidious manoeuvres and deceitful allegations about the aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

The "Vietnamization" of the war policy results from the US government's failure in Viet Nam. It will inevitably go bankrupt. People readily agree that it is the direct and main cause of the deep, overall crisis now sweeping the United States.

The seven-point peace proposal put forward by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam provides the best solution ensuring real peace and independence for the South Vietnamese people, and paves the way for the United States to get out of the Viet Nam war honorably. Had Mr Nixon responded positively to that initiative, US troops could have been enjoying Christmas and New Year's Day at home now. But Mr Nixon, on November 12, was again bent on prolonging and widening the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, maintaining the rotten, dictatorial group of Nguyen Van Thieu, and intensifying air attacks on the Indochinese countries. The recent massive and frenzied bombings of populated areas in North Viet Nam together with its manoeuvres to sabotage the Paris Conference on Viet Nam lay bare the Nixon administration's policy of continuing the aggressive war.

Dear friends,

We can affirm that Mr Nixon will fail in his designs, for never shall the peoples in Viet Nam, Indochina, the United States and the world give him a free hand. The people of South Viet Nam are resolved to carry on their struggle until achievement of their fundamental national rights, and they cannot remain idle while their Northern compatriots are killed. Regarding the American people, everybody can see that Mr Nixon is more concerned about protecting the warlike ruling group in Saigon than the American GIs' lives he could save by bringing them home. As for captured American servicemen, far from paying due consideration to their fate, Mr Nixon deliberately lengthens their namelist by indulging in new ventures against the Indochinese peoples. I am sure that Americans of various callings will strengthen their unity and take more vigorous actions in all forms, to press on the Nixon administration for an immediate end to the criminal war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

May 1972 bring you still greater achievements in your noble cause for peace, democracy and a decent life! May the solidarity and friendship between the Vietnamese and American peoples develop with each passing day!

With cordial greetings,

NGUYEN HUU THO

Chairman of the Presidium
of the CC of the SVN NFL,
Chairman of the Advisory Council
of the RSVN PRG

South Viet Nam, December 30, 1971

How can a camel pass through a needle's eye?

IN his November 15, 1971 message to the Saigon "National Assembly," Nguyen Van Thieu claimed that his "new economic measures" were aimed at building a "prosperous future for the country." On the same day, Pham Kim Ngoc, his Minister of Economy declared to the press that the building of an "autarkic economy" was necessary as South Viet Nam depended too much on foreign aids.

To speak of a "prosperous future" and an "autarkic economy" in the prevailing conditions in South Viet Nam is completely out of touch with reality if not self-deluding. How can one dream of such a tempting prospect while the 1971 exports equal only one-fiftieth of imports and inflation is rated by the International Monetary Fund as the highest in the world?

IT would have been wiser in these conditions not to dream of imaginary vistas but to ward off the lurking danger posed to the economy in US-Saigon-held areas by "Vietnamization." The same Pham Kim Ngoc said last year to an American correspondent that "the US has to declare whether it wants a replacement of American soldiers or American dollars in South Viet Nam. I have made it plain that we cannot do both things under the present circumstances" (*Los Angeles Times*, August 25, 1970). He had to say so in the hope that the US would relax the aid squeeze, but he admitted at the same time that both the US and Saigon regime were in a cleft stick with respect to the economic aspect of "Vietnamization."

Owing to this policy, over the past few years the Saigon administration has had to raise its budgetary expenditures to alarming proportions:

125 billion piastres in 1968
145 billion piastres in 1969
270 billion piastres in 1970
295 billion piastres in 1971
(The 1971 figure is only an estimate).

Apart from the money supplied by the US "aid" funds (representing over one half of its budget), the Saigon government has had to resort to inflation to make up for the budget deficit. The amount of currency in circulation rose from 82.2 billion piastres at the end of June 1970 (*Chan Hung Kinh Te*, No 702, 1970), 160 billion in early 1971 and 185 billion in the middle of 1971 (*Tia Sang*, October 8 and 9, 1971).

This situation has inevitably led to an inflation which raised by 53 per cent the cost of living in one year. It has boomeranged on all the economic, social and political life in the enemy-occupied areas in the South to such an extent that a minister in the Saigon government had to declare: "Clearly this galloping inflation will bring about a political crisis capable of playing havoc in all the war effort of South Viet Nam. It's possible that the South Viet Nam government cannot survive. No government can survive..." (*Baltimore Sun*, September 28, 1970)

An American official went so far as to say: "Let's look things in the face: this is a calamity." (*UPI*, Sep. 20, 1970) This is a calamity because inflation and the high cost of living have affected not only the already wretched life of the South Vietnamese people but also the existence of the armymen and civil servants, the very prop of "Vietnamization." The problem for Thieu at present is how to keep up an army and administration in the condition of a serious inflation and starvation wages (*US News and World Report*, August 17, 1970). One of the underlying causes of discontent in the Saigon army is a life in want. All wage rises have been eaten up by inflation. The monthly desertion rate rose from 8,000 in 1969 to 12,000 in 1970. The servants of the Saigon administration who draw fixed salaries have had to buy things at black market prices so exorbitant that a middle ranking functionary can hardly make both ends meet.

Now the truth must out. The rejection by Congress of the "foreign aid" bill on October 29, has driven home to people the economic dependence of the Saigon administration on Washington. "Attention has been drawn today by American and Vietnamese high-ranking officials to the fact that even a small part of US aid cut greatly effects South Viet Nam's decrepit economy and increases its dependency on the dollar (*USIS*, November 3, 1971). Two AID officials in Saigon also admitted that the blocking of "aid" is a catastrophe for Saigon, because without US commercialized "aid," inflation will be galloping and South Viet Nam will face a most serious shortage of commodities and the danger of cornering, and because about half of the soldiers' pay and a great part of the budget expenditure are directly or indirectly defrayed by this commercialized aid program which compels the South Vietnamese to reduce sharply their build-up (*UPI*, November 2, 1971).

In other words, after three years of "Vietnamizing," the Americans are still incapable of "Vietnamizing" the economic aspect of their aggressive war. This is more difficult than making a camel pass through a needle's eye.

(to be continued)

VAN DUC

Farmers in US-Saigon-held areas demonstrating for "land to the tillers"

A STALEMATED MILITARY STRATEGY

AFTER one year of trial by fire on the battlefields of the three Indochinese countries a question is asked: how is the US-Saigon military strategy faring?

As everybody knows, two fundamental factors make up a military strategy: the strategic position and the force to keep it, with the former as the key and decisive one. A strong military force without an advantageous strategic position will become weak and is doomed to failure. This explains why a US expeditionary force over half a million strong and over 700,000 satellite and puppet troops with most up-to-date weapons and equipment have been beaten in a country small in size and population by an adversary poorly armed at the start but always keeping the strategic initiative. For a thorough analysis and assessment of the US-Saigon military strategy through the developments on the battlefield in the recent period, one has to examine the strategic position in war.

OVER the past years and especially this year the US-Saigon Command has done its best to stop and eventually crush the strategic offensive of the South Viet Nam revolutionary war.

It has fallen back to the strategic defensive in the South, been carrying out an armed aggression against Cambodia, stepping up the "special war" in Laos, and extending the war to the whole of Indochina. It wants to "dislodge" the liberation main force, drive the Southern revolutionary war out of South Viet Nam's borders in an attempt to ward off hard blows for the Saigon main force while US troops are being withdrawn, then enable the former to take over the US defence lines in the South, defend US-Saigon rear and sanctuary in the towns and above all to intensify the main strategic "Vietnamization" ploy — the "pacification programme" in the populous countryside. What have been the results?

The US and its quislings cannot extricate themselves from their strategic passiveness nor forestall the opponent's strategic offensive; on the contrary, their war acts have turned Indochina into a single battlefield in which the offensive position of the South Viet Nam revolutionary war develops into a sweeping and widespread strategic offensive posture of the three Indochinese peoples.

Cambodian revolution has been making leaps and bounds: the Saigon and Phnom Penh troops have been trounced in Operations "Total Victory 1-71", "Tchenla I", "Tchenla II," strategic arteries have been cut off, Phnom Penh surrounded, and the liberated zone expanded. The people's war in Laos has been scoring substantial successes. The Vientiane troops and the Thai mercenaries have been cut to pieces, driven out of the Boloven Plateaux and the Plain of Jars while the Saigon mercenaries have met with "disasters" in Southern Laos. Revolution in South Viet Nam has been kept up and developed, guerilla warfare extended, the "pacification programme" foiled, and on all the South Viet Nam battlefields from Northern Quang Tri to the Western Plateaux, Central Trung Bo, the Mekong delta and Eastern Nam Bo, the Saigon soldiery has been under devastating fire from the liberation army.

The closely coordinated strategic offensive of the three Indochinese peoples has generated for the common effort of the three peoples as well as for that of each country new offensive forces, favourable offensive targets and many offensive means to frustrate both Nixon's scheme in Indochina and that of the United States and the Saigon administration in each country. Their situation on the Indochinese battlefield has been deteriorating to such a point that even the most optimist analysts are now speaking of a serious military collapse (*Newsweek*, September 2, 1971). The Saigon main forces—including the strategic mobile units—which failed to fulfil their mercenary duty in South Viet Nam have been sent across the border to be pinned down in Laos and Cambodia, particularly in the latter country, though they outnumber their opponent, as had remarked the Western press. The US-Saigon military force has been stretched thin, taxed by outside operations on the one hand, and inside consolidation and support to the "pacification programme" on the other. The US-Saigon battle array has shown many weak and exposed points. Its strategic stalemate has been worsening. US troops withdrawal has entered a dangerous phase (*AP*, November 1971). For the Saigon troops obviously are unable to replace the GIs and keep their defence lines.

Shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Cambodian and Lao armed forces and peoples the South Viet Nam armed forces and people continue to drive the enemy into a passive situation on all battlefields. All the three catagories of troops of the People's Liberation Armed Forces have been repeatedly attacking the Saigon defence lines, penetrating their inner perimeters, striking at US bases in Hue, Da Nang, Cam Ranh, Tay Ninh... and operating right around or inside Da Nang, Quy Nhon, Saigon. The quisling control machinery together with the thick networks of posts in the countryside and the support of the main force have proved powerless in face of the assaults and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in the populous plains.

The US-puppet "pacification programme" has been brought to a halt, rolled back and has been collapsing by big chunks. The people's control has been consolidated and extended in many places. The adversary has had to admit that the revolutionary bases and the revolutionary leadership are intact. This is a most fundamental achievement of the movement against "pacification." It foretells more violent storms, when the opportunity arises.

These gains of the armed forces and people on the battlefields of the three Indochinese countries in general, and of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam in particular, have created a strategic position most firm and advantageous for the revolutionary war of the three countries.

THE strategic position can alter a relation of forces. Plagued by strategic passivity, the US-Saigon forces entrusted with the implementation of this strategy have been, moreover, played out. In South Viet Nam, the US imperialists have been endeavouring to build the Saigon army into a strong army equipped with the most modern weaponry in Southeast Asia to prolong the war and eventually serve as a shock force to replace US troops in this area and defend the US colonialist interests according to the formula: "US support + native army" of the Nixon doctrine.

The US-Saigon rule has been impressing youths en masse and step up the training of officers and specialists. For this purpose the US command has handed over to the Saigon army many sophisticated war means, used it as the main force to "Vietnamize" the war and the "hard core" of its client armies in Indochina.

But the setbacks in the recent past and especially this year suffered by the Saigon army in all its actions have shown its impotence as the "backbone" of "Vietnamization" and the stormtroopers of the United States in Indochina. Its number has been growing but its quality decreasing. And SVN manpower is not unlimited. US modern weapons and techniques cannot make good its most fundamental weaknesses in politics and morale. In many ways the puppet army is still dependent on the US army. The dramatic military setback of the Saigon forces in the typical operation under "Vietnamization" on Highway 9 — Southern Laos during the first months of 1971, despite maximum US air and ground support and reinforcement while over 300,000 GIs still remained in South Viet Nam, has evidenced the inability of the Saigon main force to cope with its liberation counterpart. Its repeated reverses throughout South Viet Nam and northeastern Cambodia have spelled the irremediable collapse of an army upon which the US imperialists pin many hopes. Three infantry regiments and five battalions, four armoured regiments and two squadrons, eight artillery battalions comprising 22,000 men wiped out on Highway 9—Southern Laos, whole brigades written off at Snuol, one task force and 18 infantry battalions along with one armoured regiment and six squadrons knocked out in Operation "Total Victory 1-71" in northeastern Cambodia, whole battalions and squadrons put out of action in Northern Quang Tri, the Western Plateaux, Central Trung Bo, Eastern Nam Bo... have bled white the crack outfits of the Saigon main force, and hastened its disintegration. Cases of desertion while in action, abandonment of weapons and equipment, scramble for a seat in a rescuing helicopter have not been isolated ones...

The heavy failure on the battlefield, disunity and antagonism among the leaders of the Saigon army and administration, phased US withdrawals and dwindling US air, artillery and logistic support—all this has been sapping the already low fighting morale of the Saigon troops, while the anti-war spirit, desertion rate, and particularly the aliveness of the puppet soldiers and officers to the supreme interests of the Fatherland, the destiny of the nation after so many years of destruction by the war, and the true nature of the aggressors and the traitors have been on the upswing.

Agitation work amongst enemy troops: an important task of the South Viet Nam people's war

Can "Vietnamization" stand on its feet with such a rotten "backbone"? Here is an answer from *AP* on November 9, 1971: Lack of aggressiveness, an already high desertion rate is increasing with the fighting. This backbone of Vietnamization cannot deal with the opponent's main outfits.

On top of this, the US expeditionary strength in South Viet Nam has been steadily cut down. Nixon cannot resist the trend because the US troops' unbearable position and American opinion's mounting pressure. From 550,000 men including 110 combat battalions in 1969, the GIs will be less than 200,000 in less than 20 combat battalions, and will continue to withdraw. A change in quantity will bring about a change in quality. This law will also apply to the US-Saigon strategic force. That is why Nixon is at a loss while under compulsion to continue the pull-out.

In the meantime, the liberation armed forces of South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos have been making amazing progress, both in quantity and quality. All the three categories of troops have drawn much experience in developing guerilla warfare and large-unit action, created for themselves many possibilities to completely foil the US Saigon "Vietnamization" strategy. It is beyond any doubt that the new balance of forces on the battlefield is most propitious to the South Viet Nam armed forces and people and most adverse to the enemy in the military field.

How can the Saigon army which cannot stand on its own feet prop up the other puppet armies in Indochina?

The desperate American efforts to build up the Phnom Penh and Vientiane armies and use the Thai mercenaries have failed to meet the new requirements and compensate for ever heavier losses of the aggressive war extended by the USA throughout Indochina. On the contrary, the most fundamental military and political weakness of the puppet armies have been bared and become a burden for the US troops and the Saigon army. They have aggravated the US imperialists' setback not only in South Viet Nam but also in Cambodia and Laos, not only in the "Vietnamized" war but also in the carrying out of the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina and Asia.

THANH HONG

US-PUPPETS VIOLATE NEW YEAR TRUCE

BY 18.00 hours January 1st, the US and puppet troops had violated 250 times the order of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on suspension of military attacks on the occasion of New Year's Day, according to *GPA*, citing still incomplete figures.

The violations consisted of nearly 150 artillery shellings and 100 terror and looting raids.

In many areas of Thu Dau Mot province, US-puppet planes wantonly strafed "strategic hamlets", causing losses in lives and property to the people.

In Ca Mau province, US-puppet motor launches fired on either side of the canals, inflicting losses on the people in Dam Doi and Nam Can districts.

In our liberated areas

• A conference was recently called in Central Trung Bo to review educational work in the two years 1970-1971 and outline the future tasks. In the gathering's view, enemy stepped-up attacks on the liberated areas did not prevent the progress of education in Central Trung Bo. General education schools and classes are attended by tens of thousands of pupils, and complementary educational classes by militants and others in great numbers. In some districts and communes the proportion of school-age children receiving instruction reaches 80-100 per cent, and 3 out of every 10 people are attending classes.

It adopted a number of measures aimed at tiding over difficulties, giving a fresh impulse to educational activities, expanding them up in both general and complementary educations.

• Revolutionary power in Can Tho province is busy opening new classes and schools for 2,000 more pupils of general education while maintaining and further expanding continuation classes. The Can Tho education board has prepared and printed hundreds of text-books in Vietnamese and Khmer languages for various districts.

• The "shock" dance and song ensemble of Ba Ria - Long Khanh performed for 30,000 people in the free zone in November 1971. Moreover, it penetrated deep into the enemy-occupied areas to give shows and popularize resistance songs.

• The upland districts of Khanh Hoa province has fulfilled its production plan for 1971, the first year in the three-year economic plan in mountainous areas. Food production in districts increased by 6.6% over 1970. Apart from such staple food crops as rice, maize, cassava, other auxiliary crops and vegetables like ground-nuts, cabbages, sugar canes, were also grown. In a number of villages in Khanh Son district, each family raised 3 pigs for meat and 2 sows.

Up to now 90 per cent of households in the various districts have joined collective work teams. A number of such teams have succeeded in doubling the area under cultivation compared with last year and been using new techniques in selecting seeds and tending rice plants.

• On the 11th founding anniversary of the National Front for Liberation, the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government issued a special decision to reward units, branches, groups, localities or individuals credited with brilliant achievements in 1971. On the same occasion, the Revolutionary People's Committee of Tra Vinh province cited 6 localities, 13 units and 31 emulation fighters who had distinguished themselves since the beginning of 1970.

• In the first ten days of December 1971 in Cai Lay (My Tho) and Long My (Can Tho) districts, hundreds of youths volunteered for the army. The Cai Lay youths also erected 3,000 meters of fences, dug more than 100 underground shelters and planted 2,000 pikes in prevention of enemy mopping-up and population-parking operations.

• At the beginning of December 1971, the Revolutionary People's Committee of Phu Yen province decided to reward 34 emulation fighters, 212 "determined-to-win" fighters and 30 "determined-to-win" units who had achieved meritorious feats of arms in 1971. It also elected 69 standard-bearers representing the province's emulation movement and proposed that the Provisional Revolutionary Government confer "Liberation Medals" on 60 units and individuals with outstanding records in the drive against "pacification."

• Reports were sent by the Peasants' Union and Liberation Youth Federation of Central Nam Bo to the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation, on their achievements in 1971 and with a pledge of unity and determination to thwart the US-Saigon "pacification" scheme and fulfil all future tasks.

• The "Committee for the Consolidation of Peaceful Coexistence" of the Cao Dai Sect, Tay Ninh Branch, the Central Nam Bo Liberation Women's Union, the NFL Committees and Revolutionary People's Committees of Tra Vinh and Kien Tuong provinces, the Nam Bo representatives of Hoa Hao Sect, Cao Dai Sect (Tien Thien Branch) and patriotic Buddhists also sent messages to the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation with promises to step up all activities with a view to victory over the US aggressors.

NFL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN THE WORLD

On the occasion of the NFL founding anniversary (December 20) warm feelings were expressed in vivid and multifarious forms by the world's peoples towards the just struggle of the South Vietnamese.

CUBA: Gatherings, lectures, exhibitions, film shows, etc., were held all over the country. Newspapers, radio and TV highlighted the heroic fight of the South Vietnamese people against US aggression. The third meeting between Viet Nam and Indochina Research and Study Teams with the attendance of Viet Nam Solidarity Committees of all the six provinces, and of 150 delegates from outstanding production teams, unfolded on Dec. 18 and 19 with particular effervescence. The rally passed a resolution pledging full support to the resistance for national salvation of the Indochinese peoples.

ALGERIA: The National Liberation Front Party observed in a great many places throughout the country a *Viet Nam Solidarity Week* and stepped up activities in support of Viet Nam from Dec. 16.

IRAQ: Over 700 delegates from government bodies and mass organizations attended a huge rally on Dec. 20. Addressing the gathering, the representative of the Baath Party and mass organizations greeted the great successes of the South Vietnamese people over the last eleven years, and condemned the crimes committed by, and the stubborn attitude of, the United States which, through "Vietnamization," has been prolonging and expanding the war to the whole of Indochina, and sticking to the dictatorial war-seeking Nguyen Van Thieu gang as a tool to materialize neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The speaker voiced staunch backing for the PRG 7-point peace plan. On Dec. 18 and 19 the Information Ministry sponsored Viet Nam film shows and exhibitions on Viet Nam's resistance successes, on US war crimes and Viet Nam-Iraq friendship.

CEYLON: A celebration by the Buddhist Association and member organizations of the Ceylon United Front took place on Dec. 20 in Colombo with the attendance of MPs, monks, political figures, writers, journalists, lawyers and the city's mayor. Speaking on this occasion, delegates emphasized the far-reaching impact of the South Viet Nam NFL and the great international significance of the winning fight of the South Vietnamese people on the movement of the Ceylonese and world's peoples for independence, democracy and peace. They pointed out the inevitable setbacks of the US imperialists on the Viet Nam and Indochina fronts and the United States difficulties in many respects. They laid bare the vicious intent of Vietnamization and Nixon's obduracy, condemned the recent American bombings of the DRVN territory and called for Nixon's serious response to the seven points of the PRG of the RSVN.

SWEDEN: 3,000 people gathered in front of Parliament, then marched through the city's thoroughfares and demonstrated outside the American Embassy. Holding high flags of the PRG, the DRVN, the Lao Patriotic Front and the Kingdom of Cambodia, the crowd chanted: "US quit Indochina", "Long live the South Viet Nam NFL."

DENMARK: Lectures and distributions of pamphlets on the successes of the NFL in the past eleven years took place in Copenhagen and other places. A mass rally in the capital city on Dec. 20 evening was attended by people from various walks of life. The demonstrators sang Vietnamese songs, saw Vietnamese films and raised money for the Vietnamese. Earlier, on Dec. 16, a performance with Viet Nam as theme drew an audience of over 500. The money collected was intended for the Vietnamese.

The DRVN in brief

It warmly hailed the joint communique between the two countries.

After hearing the report on the implemeatation of the 1970 State budget, the Committee ratified it.

At the same session, the Committee heard a government report on additional concrete tasks set to various branches and localities under the 1971 State plan.

o The People's Council of the Viet Bac Autonomous Zone recently met to review its achievements during 1971 and discussed the orientation and tasks in economic development for 1972-1973.

The Council commended the people of various nationalities for their determination to overcome difficulties and hardships and valiant struggle against natural calamities. It set to all branches and levels in the zone the duty to fully implement economic and other tasks.

o In response to the "three-peak movement" in industrial production, the printing workers in a number of provinces and towns have been enthusiastically engaged in technical demonstrations. On the basis of advanced performance and production rationalization, the printing industry will continue to establish working norms to improve the quality of its products and fulfil the State plan.

in the cities

Da Nang students on hunger-strike against Nguyen Van Thieu

o The campaign "for rice and clothing" launched by the Saigon students' and pupils' *Committee to Fight for the People's Right to Live* has opened with leaflets scattered by the thousands calling on the people to rise up and oppose taxes and war. This campaign has enlisted the participation of numerous students and pupils.

o The Saigon administration is scheming to organize a session of their "Drumhead Court Martial" against the 61 Saigonese pupils and students illegally arrested by them while taking part in the movement against the Oct. 3 fraudulent "presidential" elections. This base reprisal was strongly condemned by the General Association of Saigon Students which demanded that all the 61 students and pupils be set free.

o At the Van Kiep Military Training Centre, those students from the Van Hanh Buddhist Institute who had denounced corruption and bribery were failed at their final examination by training officers who subjected other students to savage beatings.

o The Thieu's "Autumn 71 revolutionary economic measures" which boiled down to the devaluation of the South Viet Nam piastre were harshly criticized by all social segments including civil servants of the quisling administration. A Da Nang catholic priest had this to say about Thieu's misuse of the word "revolutionary": "Revolution implies change. A truly revolutionary measure is one that does not drive the people into misery." Not a few MPs boycotted the session in the course of which Thieu read out his "message." They did not like to listen to "empty words," they said.

o A new kind of taxation has been created by Thieu: all theatrical troupes in South Viet Nam cities will have to pay to the State 3 per cent of their income. The deputy-chairman of the "Committee for the Promotion of Dramatics" said that 40,000 stage workers and artistes would resist the new imposition and Thieu's attempt to kill the theatre.

o 50 US military doctors working in the two biggest US military hospitals in South Viet Nam have sent a petition to the US Senate urging that the Nixon administration "withdraw immediately and totally US troops from Viet Nam." The petition pointed out that the war would stop after the operation.

o In Hue and Can Tho where corruption is rife, local authorities are also winking at overt lootings performed by hooligans. In Hue popular feeling is running high against the authorities because of rampant robbery and looting. Meanwhile, thousands of rice bags are misappropriated by Thieu's agents who resell them at cut-throat prices.

o In the first twenty days of December, the Saigon authorities confiscated 79 issues of newspapers including the totality of issues of *Dien Tin*. 20 newspapers were fined 1,500 dollars (100,000 South Viet Nam piastres) for having carried articles revealing, though only partially, the true picture of present-day South Viet Nam.

o The director of *Esso* has decided to lay off hundreds of workers in this very Tet period. This ruthless decision was denounced by TU representatives and firmly opposed by Esso workers from Saigon, Nha Be and Tan Son Nhut meeting in an extraordinary conference.

Plain of Jars and Muong Suoi taken back

(Excerpts from the Dec. 12, 1971 Communiqué of the Plain of Jars—Xieng Khoang region's Lao PLAF Command)

..."BY the morning of December 22, within only four days, our army had smashed the bulk of the enemy force, smashed and captured the whole defence system of the enemy, and recovered the liberated zone of the Plain of Jars and Muong Suoi.

Our armed forces and people wiped out 3,100 enemy troops, captured over 200 Lao puppet troops and Thai troops including many officers, put out of action eleven battalions including five infantry battalions numbers 603, 606, 607, 608, 609 and two artillery battalions of Thai troops numbers 635 and 636 and four battalions of the Vang Pao 'special forces', inflicted heavy casualties on nine other battalions including three battalions of Thai numbers 604, 605 and 610 and six battalions of the Vang Pao 'special forces'.

The 23rd GM (mobile group) of the Vang Pao "special forces" was put out of action while the 21st GM took heavy losses.

We have captured or destroyed 34 artillery pieces of the 105 and 155mm calibres, 20 armoured cars and military trucks, shot down 17 aircraft and made a big haul of weapons of various kinds and military equipment.

The Plain of Jars - Muong Suoi victory is of a great strategic importance, especially on the political and military plans.

Following the great victory early this year in Highway 9—Southern Laos area, which saw the debacle of the US-Saigon aggressive operation in Southern Laos, this is another telling blow to the 'Nixon doctrine' currently applied to Laos which consists in using Laos to fight Laos and using Thai troops as backbone for the Lao puppet army in their aggression against our country.

This victory has seriously weakened the various major strategic forces of the enemy in his war of aggression in Laos.

To the enemy, it is a very devastating blow dealt in close co-ordination with the actions on all the other theatres in the country and with the fight of the heroic peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia. As such, it contributes to tipping the scales and changing the war situation more in favour of the resistance of the Lao people and the other peoples of Indochina.

This victory demonstrates the might and the leaping growth of our people's armed forces who have within a short period defeated a new method of conducting war of the US in Laos, of using Thai troops and the Vang Pao 'special forces' plus US air force.

In this bitter fight, our armed forces have not only proved their absolute superiority over the enemy in morale, but also a very high combat skill.

All our units, prongs, the patriotic neutralist forces, and various services: infantry, artillery, anti-aircraft force, armour, the special mission units, the engineering and signal corps, the transport service, the regional forces and the militia guerilla forces have closely co-operated with one another scored brilliant feats, won resounding victories.

Our armed forces have brought into full play their matchless valour. They have made forceful thrusts and attacked with great swiftness, pursued the enemy to the end, and displayed great daring, resourcefulness, flexibility, urgency and resolve. They also showed a high sense of discipline and organization. They have endured well hardships and overcome all difficulties to achieve great combat efficiency and accomplish all their tasks with flying colour.

Our people of various nationalities in the military sector have upheld their patriotism and hatred for the enemy and fought valiantly beside the army to defend their villages, zealously taken part in war supply service, wholeheartedly assisted the army in defeating the enemy.

The Command of the Military Sector warmly congratulates and commends all units and services of the army and the officers and men of all armed forces and the people of various nationalities that have contributed to the brilliant victories in this offensive.

The US imperialists have sustained big defeats in Laos, South Viet Nam and Cambodia. The 'Nixon doctrine' in Indochina is facing the danger of complete collapse..."

Hurrah for LAF Plain of Jars Successes!

THE Lao Liberation Armed Forces have just performed a remarkable exploit on the Plain of Jars—Muong Suoi battlefield. After 4 days of sustained attacks from December 18 to 21, 1971, they completely shattered the enemy defensive system and wiped out or decimated allt heir units stationed there. According to KPL reports, 3,300 enemy troops or 11 battalions (5 infantry battalions and 2 artillery battalions of Thai mercenaries, and 4 battalions of Vang Pao "special forces,") were put out of action. The patriotic forces also brought down 17 aircraft, seized or destroyed 30 heavy artillery pieces, 20 armoured cars and military trucks and a large amount of weapons and other war materials. They re-occupied the central part of the Plain of Jars and the Muong Suoi sector.

Taking advantage of the rainy season, the US aggressors had since late June thrown more than 30 battalions, most of them Vang Pao bandit troops and Thai mercenaries, with strong US air support, into a large-scale operation against various regions of the Plain of Jars, known as an important strategic sector. Together with massive bombings of Lao liberated zone and raids against some areas of the Boloven Plateaux (South Laos), the said war expansion was designed to occupy the strategic positions as a spring-board for attacks on the Lao liberated zone and threatening the western borders of the DRVN. On the Pentagon order, the Bangkok authorities also despatched 10 infantry and artillery battalions to assist the Vientiane and Vang Pao troops in the said operation.

The Vang Pao bandits were badly mauled and the Thai mercenaries received deadly blows at the very start of the raid.

It was a body blow to the Kittikachorn reactionary clique and to the Nixon administration scheme to play off Asians against Asians.

AFP said on December 20 that the Plain of Jars became a "hell" for both the Vang Pao bandits and Thai soldiers. The violent adverse offensive which aggravated the disintegration of Thai units has been regarded in Vientiane as a heavy setback of the "Nixon doctrine" in Laos. AP reported on December 21 that remnants of the Bangkok and Vientiane troops retreated to the south and west after suffering reverses officially recognized as "very serious."

No longer "steel-shield" for Saigon army: tanks and armoured cars gutted by the Lao PLAF

KPL further made known that in the first 18 days of December the patriotic forces in South Laos mounted a series of attacks on the enemy troops stationed at the areas north of Dong Hen, South of Pha Lan, along Highway 23, in Tha Teng, Pahsong, Ban Phon, the province capital of Saravane and Ban Khet airfield.

In these actions, about 600 adverse troops including many officers were put out of combat, and a big lot of arms and ammunition seized or destroyed. 10 US aircraft were grounded, bringing to 2,268 the number of US planes lost in Laos up to December 20.

The Plain of Jars-Muong Suoi and other feats of arms spelled out the patriotic forces' progress and increasing punch which has proved devastating for mercenary and puppet troops, backbone of "Laotianization."

They also proved that the three armed services of the LAF had been making great strides in their annihilation tactics, their co-ordinated actions and skilful fighting methods.

Under the Lao Patriotic Front's clearsighted leadership, the heroic Lao people and their armed forces have beaten off all enemy offensives, defended and consolidated the liberated zone stretching from north to south of the country and seriously frustrated the US imperialists' "Laotianization."

The South Vietnamese people and their armed forces feel gratified at such gains and will strengthen their militant solidarity with the Cambodian and Lao brother peoples, constantly stand by their side until total victory over the US aggressors.

HEROIC CUBA

ON January 1, 1972, the Republic of Cuba celebrated its 13th anniversary. In the past 13 years, standing at the outpost of the Western Hemisphere, close to the topmost and cruellest imperialism of the world, the Cubans have been engaged in national construction with a deep sense of self reliance, and turning a monoculture agricultural country into a country with a diversified agriculture and an ever developing industry.

The history of Cuba's revolution has been one of a long and gruelling struggle full of sacrifices and trials, and marked by a milestone of great significance: on January 1, 1959, after liberating Santa Clara city, the victorious Cuban patriotic forces rushed towards Havana, liberated it and founded the Republic of Cuba. The birth of a democratic and people's Cuba put an end to over 50 years of the Batista dictatorial regime. It has also aroused the national liberation movement in Latin America where the US imperialists had until then boasted of as their "back yard."

Stimulated by the first revolutionary gains in an independent land of the Hemisphere, the heroic Cubans, under the Cuban Communist Party's leadership, have been in the past 13 years industriously building the first socialist country in the area with a developed economy which leaves far behind that in the most prosperous years of the old regime. The revenue of various economic branches has been visibly on the increase from year to year. In the first half of 1971, light industry production was 10 per cent higher than in the corresponding period last year, heavy industry output rose by 15 per cent, the engineering branch alone by 22 per cent, electric power by 1.7 per cent and food industry by 9 per cent. At present, hundreds of thermo-power establishments have been built with a capacity of nearly 1 million kilowatts and an annual output of 4 billion kilowatts/hour.

Meanwhile Cuban agriculture has recorded marked progress with a series of sugar cane bumper harvests. As in 1970, the 1971 sugar cane yield was one of the biggest in Cuba's history, with nearly 6 million tons of sugar, surpassing the average output of the last 10 years (from 1959 to 1969).

The quick and steady growth of the Cuban State has caused concern and anger to the US imperialists. In the past years, they have repeatedly provoked Cuba by landing in 1961 of thousands of American mercenaries on Giron Beach. Despite their bitter failure in this reactionary attempt, they have deployed naval and air forces in attacks on the Cuban populated areas, captured or prevented Cuban ships and boats from moving or fishing in the international or Cuban waters. Determined to punish the US aggressors' piratical acts, the Cuban people and armed forces have been unceasingly heightening their vigilance, continually striking stinging counter-blows. The Cuban revolutionary armed forces' recent capture of the marauding ships "Layla Express" and "Johnny Express" of the CIA has served a stern warning on the obdurate Nixon clique.

The South Vietnamese people, close comrades-in-arms of the Cubans, will continue to give staunch support to the latter's struggle against the US imperialists' infringements on the Cuban Republic's security and sovereignty and to the December 15, 1971 Statement of the Cuban Revolutionary Government strongly condemning the US imperialists and demanding that the US government stop at once all its provocative acts against independent Cuba.

VIET NAM and Cuba are half the world apart, but their militant solidarity brought into existence and steeled in the common struggle against US imperialism, has been strengthening ever more vigorously. Permeated with the 'Viet Nam's difficulties are Cuba's ones, and Viet Nam's successes are Cuba's ones' spirit, the Cuban people have long been giving our people's anti-US pro-national salvation resistance war their valuable assistance, warm support and appropriate encouragement. Under variegated forms, Cubans of all walks of life who have been regarding support for Viet Nam as their international duty, have accordingly organized money collections, weeks or months of solidarity, and meetings or demonstrations. The Cuban Communist Party and Revolutionary Government have also constantly voiced approval of the just position, the sound political solutions, and the logical and reasonable 7-point peace initiative full of goodwill of the South Viet Nam NFL and the PRG of the RSVN in the settlement of the Viet Nam issue. At a press conference in Chile last November, Premier Fidel Castro, the esteemed leader of the Cuban people, once again asserted that "the fighting Vietnamese people are writing one of the most glorious pages of mankind's history and waging one of the most splendid struggles for sovereignty and independence. We are ready to make every sacrifice for Viet Nam."

Demonstration in Cuba: Yankees quit Indochina!

The South Vietnamese people are well aware that every success in their resistance war is closely associated with the valuable assistance of the Cuban people, the peoples of other socialist countries and the world progressives.

On this great festive day of the heroic Cuban people, the South Vietnamese people express their sincere gratitude to the Cuban people, Communist Party and Revolutionary Government. They wish the Cuban brother people, under the Cuban Communist Party's leadership, ever more brilliant achievements in the defence and building of their beloved country.

¡ Viet Nam Cuba unidos, vencerán !

in brief

• The USSR-Yemenite Arab Republic, Hungary-Yugoslavia, Romania-Egypt, and Italian Communist Party - Syrian Baath Party joint communiqués were unanimous in giving full support to the seven-point peace initiative of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government as a realistic, sensible and reasonable basis for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem. They also sternly condemned US war intensification and expansion in South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia and demanded that the US government withdraw immediately and unconditionally its troops and those of satellite countries from South Viet Nam and Indochina and cease backing the warlike dictator Nguyen Van Thieu.

• A big contingent of commodities, including cloth, medicines, milk, sugar, gourmet powder and household utensils was sent by the Soviet Peace Committee and the Chinese Red Cross as relief to the Central Trung Bo, South Viet Nam cyclone victims.

• On December 17, in Berlin, while receiving the credentials of the RSVN Ambassador, Friedrich Ebert, Chairman of the GDR State Committee, declared: "The people and Government of the German Democratic Republic resolutely stand by the South Vietnamese people in their heroic fight against the US aggression and the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu regime in Saigon, they unconditionally support the RSVN PRG seven-point proposal for a political solution to the South Viet Nam problem."

• At the second session of the Federative National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic held on December 17, Premier L. Strougal expressed support and offered all-sided aid to the South Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples fighting against US aggression.

• On December 18, one hundred Britishers opposing the Viet Nam war demonstrated in front of the US Embassy in London and urged that the US administration immediately stop its aggression and withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam. The demonstrators addressed to Nixon postcards with pictures of bombs falling on a child's head and the following inscription: "The only children the world over who have known no peace!"

• Anti-war GIs now living in exile in Sweden sent their Christmas message to US troops still in South Viet Nam, calling on them to rise up for an end to the unjust war in South Viet Nam and their early repatriation. It highlighted the policy of leniency followed by the RSVN PRG toward any GI who, by his deed, proves that he is against the Viet Nam war.

• In the United States:

— On December 10 in Washington, while Vice-President Agnew lighted candles on the "National-Christmas Tree" at the White House, participants to the ceremony in succession took the floor to denounce the US policy of prolonging and enlarging the criminal war in Viet Nam and Indochina, and to demand that Nixon immediately end the killing there and bring all GIs home. The protestors included students and veterans back from Viet Nam.

As Agnew was speaking, a group of young men angrily shouted "Peace in Viet Nam and Indochina now!"

• At Beverly Hills (California) Senator McGovern strongly scored US stepped-up bombing in Indochina as the most brutal act in our epoch. He urged Nixon to end at once his air war against Indochina and cease the killing of helpless people and squandering of US money.

• In a televised speech in New York on Dec. 19, Westmoreland, Chief of Staff of the US Army, admitted a hard fact, namely the anti-war feeling which gained in width and depth among all special sections of the United States. He also had to recognize that, in defiance of all repression by US rulers, American youths were refusing in increasing numbers to enlist in the armed forces and to take part in the dirty war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

in brief

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION